



MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 26-02
September 30, 2002

*Port Condition Whiskey Set for
Houston-Galveston - Hurricane Lili*

The U. S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port has set Port Condition Whiskey for the ports of Houston, Galveston, Freeport and Texas City. The National Hurricane Center's Advisory 36, 11 AM EDT, located the center of Hurricane Lili at 19.8N, 80.0W, with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph. The storm is currently forecasted to proceed northwest at 10 mph toward the Gulf Coast and to strengthen to a Category 2 storm once it emerges in the Gulf of Mexico. Gale force winds from Hurricane Lili extend 90 nm from the center of the storm and are possible along the coast of Texas within 72 hours. Sea conditions may restrict the movement of vessels in and out of the port well ahead of the arrival of high winds.

The Captain of the Port has established a safety zone for the following areas:

The MSO Houston-Galveston Captain of the Port zone as defined in 33 CFR 3.40-28 to include the ports of Houston, Galveston, Freeport and Texas City and all surrounding navigable waterways.

To enter, transit or remain within this safety zone, vessels must comply with the following requirements:

1. Report Intentions to Marine Safety Office Houston-Galveston. All commercial vessels and ocean-going barges greater than 500 gross tons must advise the Captain of the Port of their intent to remain in port or depart. If intending to remain in port, all vessels must complete and submit "Remaining in Port Checklist" for approval by 1000, 02 OCT 2002. Checklist can be obtained by visiting the MSO Houston-Galveston website at <http://www.uscg.mil/d8/mso/hougal/inport.htm> or calling (713) 671-5100 (ext. 0). The Checklist must be faxed to the COTP, at Marine Safety Office Houston-

Galveston at (713) 671-5177. As the storm approaches, it is anticipated that Marine Safety Unit Galveston may be evacuated from their normal office space. Therefore representatives will be assembled at MSO Houston-Galveston to review checklists from Galveston, Texas City and Freeport.

2. Closure of Departure/Arrival Windows. Ocean-going ships and barges over 500 gross tons departing the port must depart no later than 12 hours prior to the arrival of gale force winds (Port Condition Zulu). Vessels bound for COTP Houston-Galveston Zone ports, which are unable to arrive 12 hours prior to the arrival of gale force winds are advised to seek an alternate destination.
3. Cargo Operations/Bunkering. All transfer operations shall cease upon arrival of sustained 40 mph winds. All vessels intending to leave port and requiring bunkers shall plan accordingly to ensure preparations for departure are complete by 12 hours prior to the arrival of gale force winds from the storm.
4. Smaller Commercial Vessels Not Restricted by Draft. Smaller commercial vessels not restricted by draft, including fishing vessels, are asked to seek shelter outside the deep draft shipping channels and turning areas.

Within 48 hours of expected gale force winds, the COTP will set Port Condition X-Ray. Future Port Conditions are set contingent upon the storm's course and speed. Should the hurricane increase in speed, conditions may be set sooner.

Questions or comments regarding this bulletin should be directed to the Marine Safety Office Command Duty Officer or Hurricane Officer at (713) 671-5100 (ext. 0).

E. W. Parsons
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard
Alternate Captain of the Port